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CLAIMS

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3 1. A method for providing remote access to insurance applications from a
4 mainframe insurance data processing system (mainframe system) via a web-based
5 graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:

6 providing a web-based logon screen for accessing the insurance applications,
7 wherein the logon screen includes an option to display an application pop-up box that
8 lists the insurance applications that are accessible;

9 prompting entry of a user identification (ID), a user password, and a selection of
10 one of the insurance applications to access at the logon screen;

11 receiving entry of the user ID, the user password, and the selected insurance
12 application;

13 verifying the entered user ID and password; and
14 upon successful verification, communicating with the mainframe system to access the
15 selected insurance application and providing a web-based first screen for the selected
16 insurance application.

17

18 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the logon screen and the first screen for the
19 selected insurance application are web pages provided by the web-based GUI at a
20 designated website.

21

22 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the web-based GUI website is provided by at
23 least one web server farm, wherein the web server farm comprises at least one web
24 server.

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26 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the insurance application is selected by
27 choosing one of the insurance applications listed in the application pop-up box.

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1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the logon screen may be accessed through the
2 Internet or a private communication network or within an intranet.

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4 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the logon screen is serviced by a first web
5 server farm when it is accessed through the Internet, a second web server farm when it is
6 accessed through the private communication network, and a third web server farm when
7 it is accessed within the intranet.

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9 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first, second and third web server farms
10 serve as backups to one another.

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12 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the web-based GUI includes GUI
13 applications, and the insurance applications from the mainframe system are accessed
14 through the GUI applications.

15

16 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the GUI applications comprise components
17 and services, wherein each of the components includes one or more services and
18 represents an insurance subject or product offered by the insurance applications; and
19 wherein each of the services represents an action that can be performed on the insurance
20 subject or product.

21

22 10. A method for providing remote access to insurance applications from a
23 insurance data processing system (insurance system) via a graphical user interface
24 (GUI), comprising:

25 providing a logon screen for accessing the insurance applications, wherein the
26 insurance applications include an insurance policy quote and an insurance policy
27 issuance.

1 prompting entry of a user identification (ID), a user password, and a selection of
2 one of the insurance applications to access;
3 receiving entry of the user ID, the user password, and the selected insurance
4 application;
5 verifying the entered user ID and password; and
6 upon successful verification, communicating with the insurance system to access the
7 selected insurance application and providing a first screen for the selected insurance
8 application.

9

10 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the logon screen includes an option to
11 display an application pop-up box that lists the insurance applications that can be
12 selected.

13

14 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the selected insurance application
15 comprises an insurance policy quote, and the first screen comprises a welcome screen.

16

17 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
18 providing a second screen to gather information about an insurance customer for
19 which the insurance policy quote is selected;
20 prompting entry of an agent code of the user at the second screen;
21 requesting the customer information by further prompting entry of the customer's name,
22 the customer's address, the customer's telephone number at the second screen;
23 prompting a search for a record of the customer in the insurance system based on the
24 entry of the customer information at the second screen; and
25 searching the insurance system for the customer record.

26

27 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

1 if the searching for the customer record results in one or more possible records for the
2 customer, providing a list of the one or more possible records on a third screen;
3 if the searching of the customer record is unsuccessful, providing a prompt to add
4 a new record of the customer in the insurance system and providing a prompt to import a
5 record of the customer from outside of the insurance system into the insurance system;
6 and
7 receiving either a selection of one of the possible records from the list or a
8 command to add a record for the customer into the insurance system.

9
10 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
11 providing a fourth screen with a prompt for selecting a type of insurance for the
12 insurance policy quote;
13 providing a fifth screen with prompts for entry of basic policy information
14 relating to the selected type of insurance for the insurance policy quote;
15 providing a sixth screen with prompts for entry of policy detail information
16 relating to the customer information and the selected type of insurance for the insurance
17 policy quote;
18 providing a seventh screen with prompts for information about a subject to be
19 insured by the selected type of insurance for the insurance policy quote;
20 providing an eighth screen with prompts for information on coverages desired for
21 the selected type of insurance; and
22 providing a ninth screen that shows a price quote based at least on the selected
23 type of insurance, the subject information, and the information on the desired coverages.
24

25 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the GUI is a web-based GUI, the second
26 screen displays a web page of the web-based GUI, and the third screen displays the web
27 page having been modified.

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1 17. The method of claim 10, wherein the selected insurance application
2 comprises an insurance policy issuance.

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4 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
5 providing a first screen to gather information about an insurance customer for
6 which the insurance policy issuance is selected;
7 prompting entry of first information about the customer and search criteria;
8 prompting a search for a record of the customer in the insurance system based on
9 the entry of the customer information and the search criteria; and
10 searching the insurance system for the customer record.

11

12 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
13 if the searching for the customer record is successful, providing a second screen
14 that displays second information about the customer, wherein the second information
15 about the customer is more comprehensive than the first information about the customer;
16 and
17 if the searching for the customer record is unsuccessful, prompting the user to
18 enter additional information about the customer, and prompting the user to create a new
19 record in the insurance system for the customer.

20

21 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the second information about the customer
22 is retrieved from the customer record found in the insurance system from the searching.

23

24 21. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
25 providing at least one screen that prompts for selection of a type of insurance for
26 the insurance policy issuance and entry of information about determinants for the
27 selected insurance type.

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- 1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
- 2 providing a screen with prompts for entry of policy detail information relating to
- 3 the customer information and the selected insurance type;
- 4 providing a screen with prompts for entry of policy eligibility information
- 5 relating to the selected insurance type for issuance;
- 6 providing a screen with prompts for information about a subject to be insured by
- 7 the selected insurance type for issuance;
- 8 providing a screen with prompts for information on coverages desired for the
- 9 selected insurance type for issuance;
- 10 providing a screen with prompts for billing information relating to the selected
- 11 insurance type for issuance; and
- 12 providing a screen showing a price quote based at least on the selected insurance
- 13 type, the subject information, and the information on the desired coverages.
- 14
- 15 23. The method of claim 21, wherein providing at least one screen that prompts
- 16 for entry of determinants for the selected insurance type comprises:
- 17 providing an initial screen for the entry of the determinants for the selected
- 18 insurance type, wherein the initial screen prompts for the selection of the type of
- 19 insurance;
- 20 providing a second screen for the entry of determinants for the selected insurance
- 21 type, wherein the second screen prompts for entry of a transaction type and a policy
- 22 type; and
- 23 providing a third screen for the entry of determinants for the selected insurance
- 24 type, wherein the third screen prompts for entry of a pricing level.
- 25
- 26 24. The method of claim 22, wherein the selected insurance type for issuance is
- 27 an automobile insurance, and wherein providing a screen with prompts for information

1 about the subject to be insured includes providing a screen with prompts for information
2 about a vehicle to be insured.

3

4 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
5 providing a screen with prompts for information about an operator of the vehicle
6 to be insured.

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8 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the prompts for information about the
9 operator of the vehicle to be insured includes a prompt for a percentage of the use of the
10 vehicle to be insured by the operator.

11

12 27. The method of claim 22, wherein the selected insurance type for issuance is a
13 homeowner insurance, and wherein providing a screen with prompts for information
14 about the subject to be insured includes providing a screen with prompts for residence
15 information about a home to be insured.

16

17 28. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
18 providing a screen with prompts for information about replacement cost for the
19 home to be insured.

20

21 29. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
22 providing a screen with a prompt for endorsements.

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24 30. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
25 providing an option to print out forms relating to the selected insurance
26 application.

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